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ABSTRACT

These two illustrated elementary readers contain the Spanish and English versions of a Puerto Rican folk tale, "Maria Santa La Torre." They are part of a series of reading materials for elementary-level migrant children. These materials are intended to help the child relate to his culture, develop interest in knowing about it and take pride in his identity as a Puerto Rican. (CLK)

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MARÍA SANTA

LA TORRE

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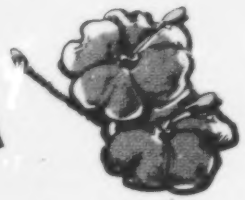
A PUERTO RICAN FOLK TALE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY *JOE CAUCHI*

A PUERTO RICAN FOLK TALE

MARÍA SANTA



LA TORRE

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María Santa La Torre has been one of the many stories told to us by our grandmother before going to bed. This story was told in Hatillo, Puerto Rico by Mrs. Tomasa Pérez who first heard the story from her mother when she was a little girl and the story has been passed down from generation to generation.

Once upon a time

There was a lady who had a son named Juanito. She had some money for her son but did not know how to give it to him. One day she called her son and said: "My son, I have some money for you. How do you want it? In money or in a gift?"

Juanito said that what he wanted most was a horse.

His mother bought him the horse. He was very happy. There was pasture land near his house. Juanito said: "I will have my horse eat from these pastures."

Next day Juanito looked out the window toward the pasture land and was surprised to see the horse with seven colts. Full of joy and happiness he hurried to tell his mother. She asked him: "Son, what are you going to do now?"

"I am going to select the most beautiful and strongest of the horses to ride," said Juanito.

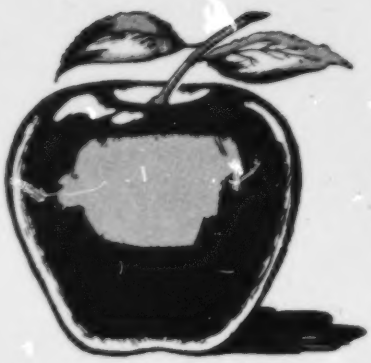
When he got close to the horses he chose the most beautiful one. The horse said to him: "To keep me you will have to kill the other six horses and cover me with their blood."

Instantly, Juanito did as the horse told him. Once covered with blood, the horse looked more beautiful, for now it had bright colors.

The horse said to Juanito: "You and I are going to be good friends." Juanito got on his horse and went riding.

This time the horse told Juanito: "Do not pick up everything you see on the ground for it will bring serious trouble and danger."

But it happened that as he began his ride, Juanito saw a golden feather of a peacock. The horse told him not to pick it up. Juanito disobeyed and picked it up.



He continued his trip. Suddenly, he saw a golden apple. The horse reminded him not to pick it up but Juanito disobeyed again.

He looked in all directions and saw a picture on the ground. It was a picture of María Santa La Torre.

Once more the horse warned him of the danger, but Juanito picked up the picture without paying attention.

The owner of the palace was a king. When he saw Juanito on his horse of bright colors, he asked Juanito to come in.

One of the king's soldiers found the golden feather, apple, and the picture of María Santa La Torre that Juanito had left near his horse.

The soldier handed the three objects to the king.

The king said to Juanito: "Where did you find this picture, the golden apple, and the golden feather? For a long time, I have been looking for this young lady to be my wife; a golden apple tree to grow in my garden; and a golden bird to sing in my palace."

"If you do not bring me the bird that has golden feathers, I will have you killed." When Juanito heard this he almost fainted.

His faithful friend, the horse, told him: "I warned you. Do not worry. I am going to help you. Jump on and let us find the bird with golden feathers." They walked and walked until they found the bird with golden feathers in a tree.

Juanito caught the bird and took it to the king. This time the king told Juanito: "If you do not bring me the tree where the golden apple grows, I will have you killed."

The horse told him again: "I told you, Juanito, but you disobeyed me. Jump on and let us find the tree." This time they walked and walked but could not find the tree. They continued until at last they found it.

At that moment the horse told him: "There is a lion watching the tree. If the lion has his eyes open, he is asleep."

The lion was sleeping. It was easy for Juanito to pull out the tree, tie it to the horse's tail and take it to the king.

There was something else to be done. The king told Juanito: "Where is the young lady? If you do not bring her to me I will have you killed."

Juanito, very pale and sad, went to see his good friend, the horse.

Once more they started walking and walking until they arrived at an old house. At that moment the horse told him: "Juanito, today is my last day with you, but listen to this: There is a María Santa La Torre. She is going to play a game with you. If you lose the game, the king will have you killed." María Santa La Torre explained to him that they would play hide and seek three times. He would have to find her at least once.

The first time she hid, Juanito did not find her. He lost the first time. Also, the second time he did not find her. He became very sad for his life was in danger.

The third time Juanito hid himself to watch where María Santa La Torre would go. Since she did not know he was watching her, she started climbing and climbing stairs. They were so long that they seemed to reach the sky. This was her favorite hiding place for she knew that nobody would find her there.

Juanito climbed the stairs and surprised María Santa La Torre just before she reached the top.

She told him: "Well, Juanito, since you found me I have to go to the palace with you."

Then Juanito took her to the palace. The king was surprised in seeing that she was more beautiful than in the picture.

The king and María Santa La Torre got married and they lived a happy life.

The king gave a palace to Juanito where he and his mother lived happily ever after.

THE END

Printed in U.S.A.

MARÍA SANTA

LA TORRE

FL007143

UN CUENTO TRADICIONAL PUERTORRIQUEÑO

Ilustraciones por **Joe Cauchi**

UN CUENTO TRADICIONAL PUERTORRIQUEÑO

MARÍA SANTA

LA TORRE

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Cuento narrado por Tomasa Pérez
Ilustraciones por Joe Cauchi

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María Santa La Torre ha sido un cuento de los tantos que nuestras abuelas usualmente nos contaban antes de acostarnos. Fue narrado en Hatillo, Puerto Rico por la señora Tomasa Pérez. María Santa La Torre fue contado por su mamá cuando ella era pequeña, y así paso de generación a generación.

HABÍA UNA VEZ

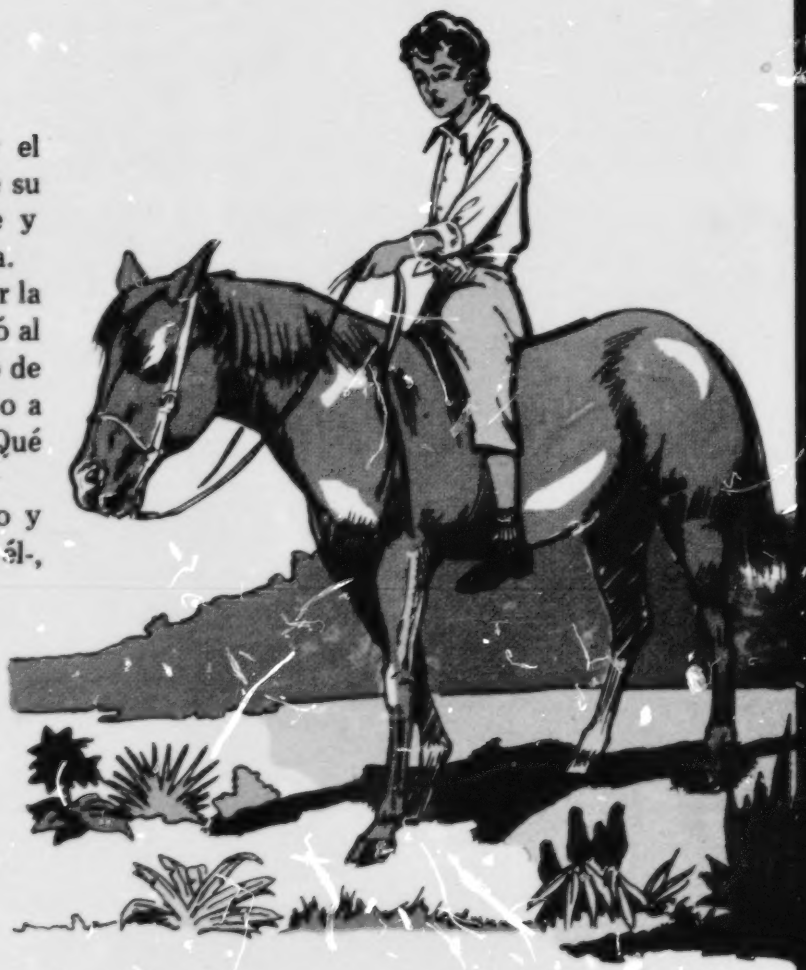
Una señora que tenía un hijo llamado Juanito. Ella tenía un dinero para su hijo, pero no sabía como entregárselo. Un día llamó al niño y le dijo: -Hijo mío, tengo un dinero para ti! ¿Cómo lo prefieres? ¿En dinero o en regalo?

Juanito contestó que lo que más deseaba era una yegua.

La mamá le compró la yegua y el niño quedó muy contento. Cerca de su casa había un cercado muy grande y Juanito dijo: — Aquí cuidaré mi yegua.

Al día siguiente Juanito miró por la ventana hacia el cercado y se asombró al ver la yegua con siete potritos. Lleno de alegría y felicidad corrió a contárselo a su mamá. Esta le preguntó: -Hijo, ¿Qué vas a hacer ahora?

-Voy a escoger el más hermoso y brioso de los caballos para pasear en él-, respondió Juanito.



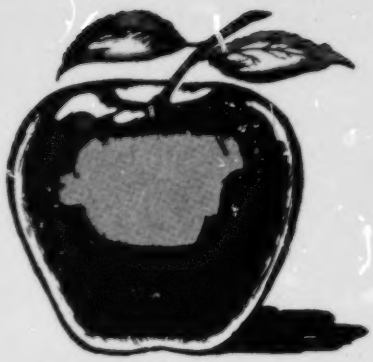
Cuando se acercó a los caballos escogió el más hermoso de todos. El caballo le dijo: -Para quedarte conmigo tienes que matar a seis de esos caballos y bañarme en su sangre.

Al instante, Juanito hizo lo que le dijo el caballo. Una vez bañado lució más hermoso, pues ahora tenía brillantes colores.

El caballo dirigiéndose a Juanito, dijo: -Tú y yo seremos buenos amigos. Juanito se montó en su brioso caballo y se fue de paseo.

Esta vez el caballo le dijo a Juanito: -No cojas todo lo que veas en el suelo pues tendrás serios problemas y te verás en peligro.

Pero sucedió que al seguir vio una pluma de oro de un pavo real. El caballo le dijo que no la cogiera, pero Juanito no obedeció y la cogió.



Continuó su viaje y de pronto vio una manzana de oro. El caballo le recordó que no la cogiera, pero Juanito no quiso obedecerlo y la cogió

Luego llegaron a un palacio. Juanito miró en todas direcciones y vio un retrato que había en el suelo. El retrato era de María Santa La Torre.

Una vez más el caballo le advierte del peligro, pero Juanito recogió el retrato sin prestarle atención.

El dueño del palacio era un rey. Cuando vio a Juanito en su caballo de brillantes colores, lo mandó a entrar.

Uno de los soldados del rey encontró la pluma y la manzana y el retrato de María Santa La Torre que Juanito había dejado cerca de su caballo.

El soldado le entregó los tres objetos al rey.

El rey le dijo a Juanito: -¿Dónde encontraste este retrato? Esta es la joven que ando buscando hace mucho tiempo; el árbol que quiero que crezca en mis jardines y el ave que quiero que cante en mi palacio.

Si tú no me traes el pájaro que tiene plumas de oro te mando a matar. Al oir esto Juanito palideció.

Su buen amigo el caballo, le dijo: -Te lo advertí, pero no te apures que te voy a ayudar. Móntate y vamos a buscar al pájaro de plumas de oro. Caminaron y caminaron hasta que encontraron un árbol donde estaba el pájaro.

Juanito cogió el pájaro y se lo llevó al rey. Pero esta vez el rey le dijo a Juanito: -Si ahora no me traes el árbol que da esa manzana de oro, te mando a matar.

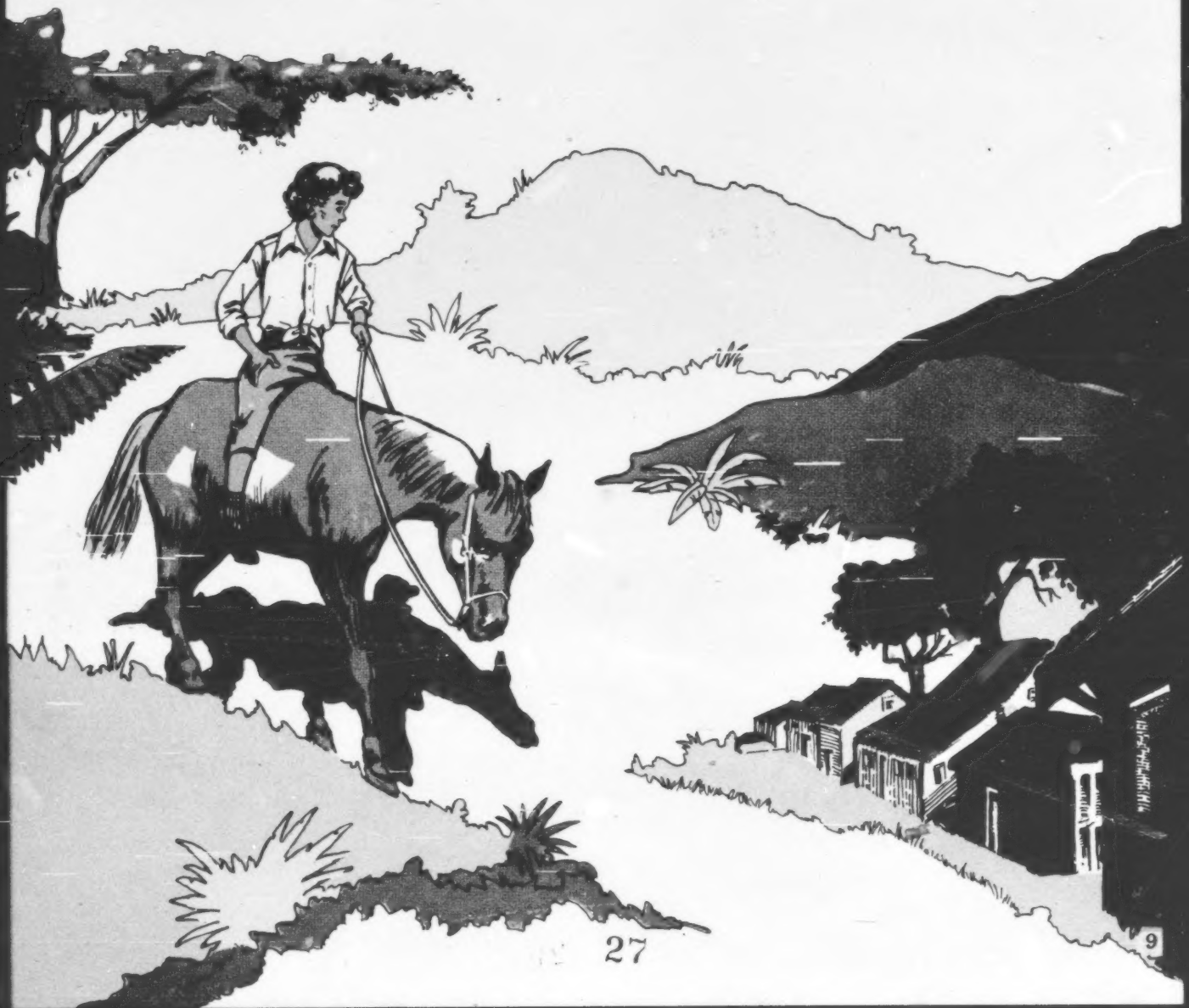
El caballo vuelve y le dice: -Te lo dije, Juanito, pero no quisiste obedecerme. Móntate y vamos a buscar ese árbol. Esta vez caminaban y caminaban y el árbol no aparecía a su vista por ningún sitio. Continuaron hasta que al fin lo encontraron.

En ese momento el caballo le dijo: -Cuidando el árbol hay un león. Si ves al león con los ojos abiertos, es que está dormido; entonces arrancas el árbol. Juanito vio que el león dormía. De esa manera fue más fácil arrancar el árbol, amarrarlo a la cola del caballo y llevárselo al rey.

Pero sucedió que aún faltaba algo por hacer. Fue entonces cuando el rey le preguntó a Juanito: -¿Dónde está esta joven? Si no me la traes, te mando a matar.

Juanito, más pálido y triste que antes, se dirigió donde su buen amigo el caballo.

Una vez más comenzaron a andar y andar hasta que llegaron a una casa vieja. En este momento el caballo le dijo: -Juanito, hasta hoy te acompaño, pero oye esto: Ahí está María Santa La Torre. Ella va a jugar un juego contigo. Si pierdes, el rey te matará. María Santa La Torre le explicó que el juego consistía en que ella se escondería tres veces y él debería encontrarla aunque fuese una vez.



La primera vez ella se escondió, pero Juanito no pudo encontrarla. El perdió la primera vez. Tampoco pudo encontrarla la segunda vez. Esto lo puso triste, pues su vida estaba en peligro.

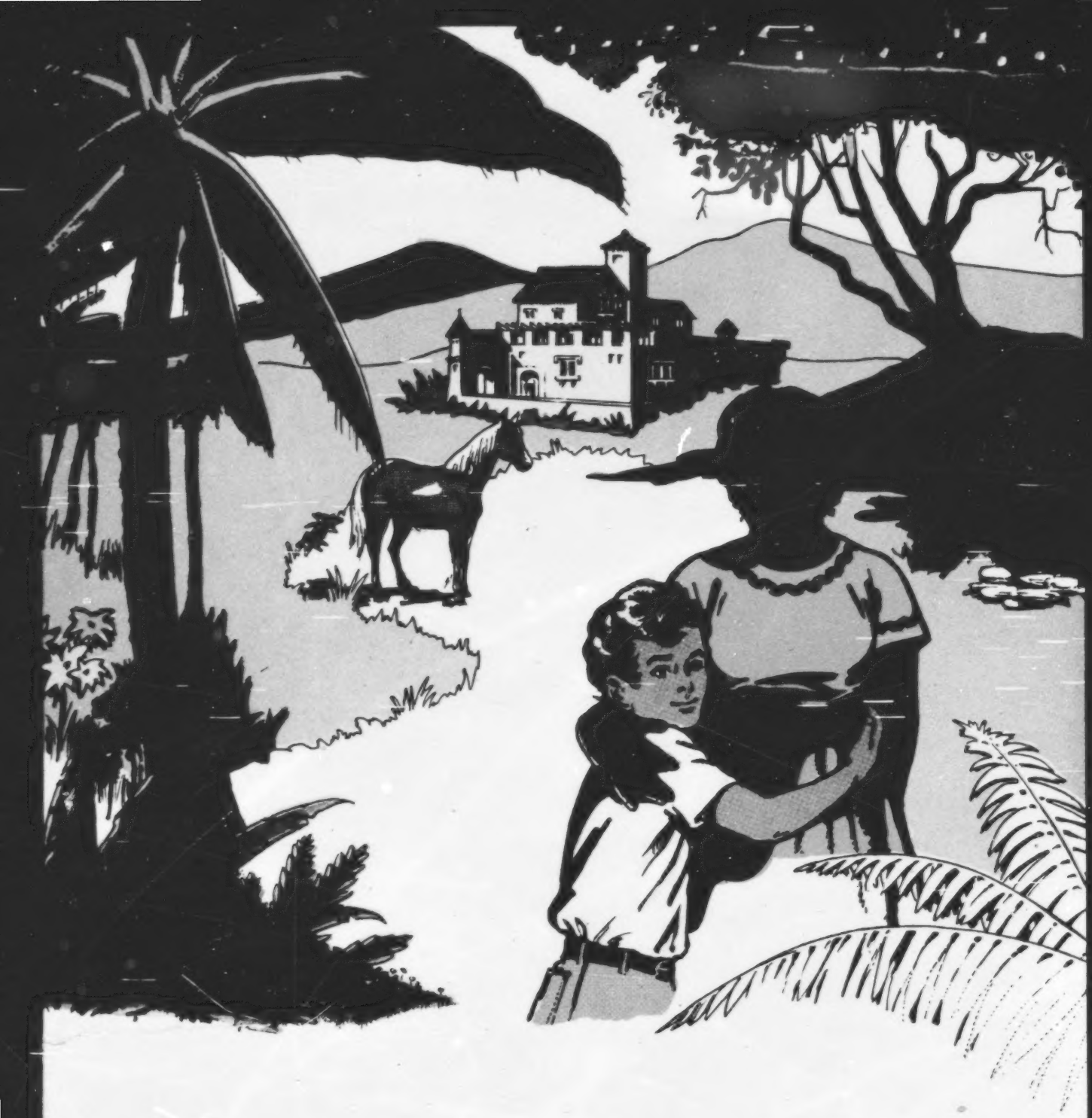
Llega la tercera vez, pero Juanito se escondió para vigilar a María Santa La Torre. Como ella no creía que él la estaba mirando, comenzó a subir las escaleras. Eran tan largas que parecían perderse en el cielo. Ese era su sitio favorito para esconderse, pues sabía que ahí nadie la encontraría.

Entonces Juanito la llevó al palacio. El rey quedó sorprendido al ver que era más bella que en el retrato.

El rey y María Santa La Torre se casaron y vivieron una vida feliz.

Juanito subió las escaleras y sorprendió a María Santa la Torre antes de llegar al final.

Ella le dijo: -Bien, como me encontraste, tengo que ir contigo al palacio.



El rey le regaló un palacio a Juanito donde él y su mamá vivieron muy felices.

Fin

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